

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action issued October 12, 2006. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 were previously pending in this application. By way of the present Amendment, applicant is canceling claim 1, amending claims 2-5, and 7-10 and adding new claims 13-20 for examination. No new matter is being added.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In response, applicant has rewritten claim 5 as two separate independent claims, i.e., claim 5 and new claim 13. Claim 5 originally recited that the reinforcing layer comprises a series of "plates" or "shaped parts". Independent claims 5 and 13, as currently presented, are each directed to one of these alternatives. Specifically, claim 5 has been rewritten to be directed to "shaped parts", while new claim 13 is directed to a series of "plates". Also, the present claims have been amended to change the recitation of "welded" to "attached".

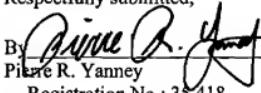
It is respectfully submitted that the substance of claims 5 and 13, as presented in this Amendment, corresponds generally to the substance of claim 5, which was previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 5 and 13, as presented herein, are therefore allowable. Claims 2-4 and 6-10 depend on claim 5, while claims 14-20 depend on claim 13, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reason as their respective base claim.

In view of the present Amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-20 are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the present case be allowed and passed on to issue.

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated October 12, 2006, has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that the pending claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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